

Mr. Chairman, I reluctantly rise to oppose the gentleman's amendment, well-intentioned as it is. He wants to increase the funding for economic and statistical analysis at the Commerce Department by \$4.35 million.

I will be happy to work with the gentleman as we go through the process in conference with the Senate and further, but in the process this amendment would slash double that amount from the State Department's international exchange program. The funding level in the bill for exchanges provides only for wage and price increases, so any reduction to the level in the bill would be a cut into the meat of these programs, which include the Fulbright Scholarship Program and the International Visitor Program.

Exchanges like these, Mr. Chairman, foster the international dialogue that is critical to American leadership in the world and to long-term peaceful and productive relations with other countries. Exchange programs are a vital tool to advance our foreign economic and security policies, and this amendment would cut them to below a freeze level.

I do appreciate the gentleman's concerns about the economic and statistical programs of the Commerce Department, but this bill already provides funding for those programs at the current year level, which includes an increase over last year's for an initiative to update and improve statistical measurement of the U.S. economy and the measurement of international transactions. In addition, the Department of Commerce will be able to submit a reprogramming for additional funding for these programs if they feel it necessary.

I would be happy to work with the gentleman to address his concerns, and the concerns of all of us, as we continue through the process; but the proposed offset would do real damage to the exchange program at State; and, therefore, I am constrained to urge that we reject this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO).

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I want to join the chairman in his comments that he has made.

Let me first say that many Members have come to me and told me that this is an area they wish would not be used for offsets. This especially cuts the Fulbright program, which has been cut by Congress by more than 25 percent in fiscal year 1995 and 1996. In addition, I am informed that this would also cut educational advising, which assists folks who are interested in attending school over here.

So, in general, while we certainly understand what the gentleman is trying to do, and under normal circumstances I probably would join him, there are many people on this side who believe that hurting this program would just

not be the proper thing to do at this time.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume to note that I am joined in opposition by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) of the Committee on International Relations, and by the chairman of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), in urging that we reject the amendment.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROGERS. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for yielding to me, and I appreciate the Chairman's frugal manner and the fact that there are not a lot of excess appropriations in his budget. However, in this particular account, the Educational and Cultural Exchange Account, there was an increase. This amendment still leaves that account with more money than they had last year.

And, again, I would just call to the chairman's attention the fact that BEA has been cut 12 percent in real terms since 1993. It is being held flat this year, even though there are tremendous changes in our economy to calculate.

Do I understand the chairman to say that he will work, as this goes to conference and through the process, to try to more adequately fund the BEA?

Mr. ROGERS. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, the gentleman is correct. I will work with the gentleman and others to see if there is some way we can find extra money for BEA. I realize the importance of it and that they are being squeezed by this funding level. So I will work with the gentleman to see if there is something we can do along the way.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH).

The amendment was rejected.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Committee will rise informally.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Michigan) assumed the Chair.

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FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3903. An act to deem the vessel M/V MIST COVE to be less than 100 gross tons, as measured under chapter 145 of title 46, United States Code.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1651. An act to amend the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967 to extend the period during which reimbursement may be provided to owners of United States fishing vessels for costs incurred when such a vessel is seized and detained by a foreign country, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2327. An act to establish a Commission on Ocean Policy, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

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DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

The Committee resumed its sitting.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of the bill through page 50, line 18 be considered as read, printed in the RECORD and open to amendment at any point.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill from page 45, line 1, through page 50, line 18, is as follows:

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for collecting, compiling, analyzing, preparing, and publishing statistics, provided for by law, \$140,000,000.

PERIODIC CENSUSES AND PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses to conduct the decennial census, \$392,898,000 to remain available until expended: of which \$24,055,000 is for Program Development and Management; of which \$57,096,000 is for Data Content and Products; of which \$122,000,000 is for Field Data Collection and Support Systems; of which \$1,500,000 is for Address List Development; of which \$115,038,000 is for Automated Data Processing and Telecommunications Support; of which \$55,000,000 is for Testing and Evaluation; of which \$5,512,000 is for activities related to Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Pacific Areas; of which \$9,197,000 is for Marketing, Communications and Partnerships activities; and of which \$3,500,000 is for the Census Monitoring Board, as authorized by section 210 of Public Law 105-119.

In addition, for expenses to collect and publish statistics for other periodic censuses and programs provided for by law, \$137,969,000, to remain available until expended.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, as provided for by law, of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), \$10,975,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 1535(d), the Secretary of Commerce shall charge Federal agencies for costs incurred in spectrum management, analysis, and operations, and related services and such fees shall be retained and used as offsetting collections for costs of such spectrum services, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That hereafter, notwithstanding any other provision of law, NTIA shall not authorize spectrum use or provide any spectrum functions pursuant to the National Telecommunications and Information